

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO/RUDKRB AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 4776  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0221

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4337

SNMO. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, RO, YO  
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: NICOLAE MIHAI, NEW ROMANIAN  
AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. RCP DAILY "SCINTEIA" ANNOUNCED MAY 27 AN APPOINTMENT OF NICOLAE MIHAI AS AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, REPLACING VIRGIL CAZACU, WHO WAS RECALLED IN MARCH TO BECOME A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (BUCHAREST 1481). ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD NO WORD THAT MIHAI HAS PRESENTED CREDENTIALS, HE IS FUNCTIONING AS A MEMBER OF ROMANIAN DELEGATION TO YUGOSLAV 11TH PARTY CONGRESS, DELEGATION CONSPICUOUSLY HEADED BY TRUSTED CEAUSESCU ASSISTANT EMIL BOBU.

2. EMBASSY'S INFORMATION ON MIHAI IS LIMITED TO CURRICULUM VITAE. HE FIRST EMERGED IN LATE 1966 AS A PARTY SECRETARY IN THE INDUSTRIALLY IMPORTANT GALATI REGION. AFTER THE RE-DISTRICTING OF ROMANIA INTO JUDETE (COUNTRIES) EARLY IN 1968, MIHAI WAS APPOINTED PARTY FIRST SECRETARY AND PEOPLE'S COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IN BRAILA JUDET, WHICH HAD BEEN PART OF THE GALATI REGION. IN MARCH 1969 MIHAI WAS APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL, A NOW-DEFUNCT PARTY-STATE COORDINATION BODY; IN AUGUST 1969 HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE RCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN 1974 HE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A DEPUTY CHIEF OF SECTION IN THE  
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CENTRAL COMMITTEE, APPARENTLY DEALING WITH ORGANIZATION; WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE DATE OF THIS APPOINTMENT. MIHAI WAS DROPPED FROM HIS BRAILA POSITION IN JANUARY 1973, BUT WAS IMMEDIATELY APPOINTED MINISTER STATE SECRETARY (NO. 2) IN THE STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE, A LATERAL MOVE.

3. MIHAI WAS DEMOTED IN 1974: HE WAS DROPPED FROM THE STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN MAY AND NOT RE-ELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEES IN NOVEMBER. HE RETAINED SOME GRACE THROUGH ELECTION AS A MEMBER OF THE PARTY COLLEGIUM, A SENIOR BODY CHARGED WITH CADRE, IDEOLOGICAL, AND PARTY SECURITY MATTERS (AND MORE RECENTLY WITH WORKERS' COMPLAINTS). FROM MARCH 1975 UNTIL RECENTLY, MIHAI WAS PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL UNION OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVES (CENTROCOOP), AN INTERNAL TRADE WHICH HANDLES URBAN MARKETING OF RURAL GOODS, AND RURAL MARKETING OF CONSUMER GOODS.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHY MIHAI, WHO HAS A VARIED BUT UNSPECTACULAR PARTY BACKGROUND, WAS SELECTED FOR BELGRADE. THIS IS ALSO, IMPRESSION OF YUGOSLAV EMBASSY HERE. CLEARLY HE HAS SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR, ACQUAINTANCE WITH PARTY AND IDEOLOGICAL MATTERS, AND MUST HAVE DEALT WITH DANUBE RIVER ISSUES DURING HIS TIME IN GALATI AND BRAILA. EVEN ALLOWING FOR THE ROMANIAN PREFERENCE FOR CONDUCTING RELATIONS WITH OTHER "SOCIALIST" REGIMES THROUGH PARTY CONTACTS RATHER THAN "STATE" AMBASSADORIAL REPRESENTATIVES, THE AMBASSADORSHIP IN BELGRADE IS ONE OF ROMANIA'S MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS, AND IT REPRESENTS A PROMOTION FOR MIHAI.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY OBSERVATIONS OR IMPRESSIONS BELGRADE  
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MAY DEVELOP ABOUT MIHAI, SENIOR ROMANIAN EMBASSY STAFF,  
AND WORKINGS OF THE EMBASSY.  
AGGREY

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## Message Attributes

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